



blue skullcap

Scutellaria lateriflora

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Blue skullcap is a perennial herb. Its stem is upright, usually branched, four-sided, and up to two feet tall. The lance-shaped, toothed leaves may be three inches long and are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Blue flowers, slightly over one-fourth inch long, arise in clusters from the base of the leaves. The fruits are very small and nut-like.

Natural History

Blue skullcap grows along rivers, streams, and the edges of lakes and marshes as well as in open bottomland forests. It flowers from July through September. It is rare in the northwest part of the state and common elsewhere.

Habitats

bottomland forests; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.